

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 AID-05 /057 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3414

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 11892

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PK, PFOR, AF

SUBJECT: GOP MOVES TO DISQUALIFY FORMER NAP
LEGISLATORS

1. IN ACTION WHICH HAD BEEN WIDELY ANTICIPATED SINCE
INTRODUCTION AND PASSAGE LAST MONTH OF FOURTH
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, WHICH FACILITATED IT BY
EXTENDING TO PRESENT (FIRST) NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DIS-
QUALIFICATION PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO SUBSEQUENTLY
ELECTED PARLIAMENTS, GOVERNMENT HAS MOVED TO OUST
FROM THEIR PARLIAMENTARY AND PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY SEATS
THOSE LEGISLATORS WHO WERE MEMBERS OF DEFUNCT NATIONAL
AWAMI PARTY. STEP TAKEN TO EFFECT THIS WAS PROMULGATION
DECEMBER 23 OF PRESIDENTIAL ORDINANCE AMENDING THE
POLITICAL PARTIES ACT TO PROVIDE THAT A PERSON WHO HAS
BEEN AN OFFICE-BEARER OF A PARTY DISSOLVED UNDER
THAT ACT SHALL BE DISQUALIFIED FROM BEING A MEMBER OF
PARLIAMENT OR A PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY AND FROM BEING
ELECTED OR CHOSEN AS SUCH FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS
FROM THE DATE OF SUCH DISSOLUTION. (ORDINANCE ALSO DE-
BARS FOR SAME PERIOD THOSE CONVICTED UNDER THE ACT.)

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SOME 37 SENATORS, MNA'S, AND MEMBERS OF THE NORTHWEST

FRONTIER PROVINCE AND BALUCHISTAN ASSEMBLIES WILL APPARENTLY BE AFFECTED BY THE MEASURE, SINCE AS ELECTED PARLIAMENTARIANS AND PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLYMEN THEY WERE CONSIDERED EX-OFFICIO OFFICEBEARERS OF THE NAP UNDER THE ORGANIZATION'S BYLAWS.

2. MOVE IS LOGICAL FOLLOW-ON TO SUPREME COURT'S OCTOBER 30 DECISION CONFIRMING GOP ACTION OF LAST FEBRUARY BANNING NAP AS PARTY OPPOSED TO INTEGRITY AND SOLIDARITY OF PAKISTAN. GOVERNMENT LEADERS AND PRO-GOVERNMENT FIGURES HAVE ARGUED SINCE THAT TIME THAT IT IS ILLOGICAL AND LEGALLY INCONSISTENT FOR UNREPENTANT LEGISLATORS ELECTED ON THE TICKET OF AN ANTI-PAKISTAN PARTY TO CARRY ON FOLLOWING COURT-CONFIRMED DISSOLUTION OF THEIR ORGANIZATION. THEY HAVE FREQUENTLY DECLARED THAT NEWLY ORGANIZED NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, TO WHICH MOST NAP LEGISLATORS HAVE ADHERED OR ARE IN THE PROCESS OF JOINING, IS NOTHING MORE THAN OLD NAP UNDER NEW COLORS DESPITE FACT IT IS LED BY FORMER INDEPENDENT, NON-NAP LEGISLATOR, SHER BAZ MAZARI.

3. IN FRONTIER AND BALUCHISTAN, OUSTING OF LEGISLATORS WILL PROBABLY MAKE NECESSARY WITHIN TWO MONTHS BY-ELECTIONS FOR VACATED SEATS, UNLESS THESE ARE OVERTAKEN BY NATIONWIDE GENERAL ELECTIONS; RUMORS CONTINUE TO PERSIST THAT THESE WILL BE HELD SOMETIME IN THE SPRING OF 1976. WHETHER OPOSITION WILL CONTEST THESE BY-ELECTIONS, OR SOME OF THEM (IN WHAT IS LIKELY TO BE HIGHLY CHARGED ATMOSPHERE) OR CHOOSE TO WITHDRAW IN PROTEST AND WEAKNESS FROM ELECTORAL ARENA CANNOT BE FORECAST AT THIS EARLY MOMENT.

4. WHATEVER ITS IMPACT IN THE FRONTIER AND BALUCHISTAN, THE PRINCIPAL AREAS OF NAP STRENGTH (WE WILL HAVE MORE ON THIS FROM CONSULATES KARACHI AND PESHAWAR), THE GOVERNMENT MOVE IS CERTAIN TO DEEPEN BOTH THE NATIONAL OPPOSITION'S FEELING OF BITTERNESS AND FRUSTRATION AND THE DIVISIONS WITHIN

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IT. THE STRENGTH OF THE LEGISLATIVE OPPOSITION WILL BE SHARPLY REDUCED BY THE OUSTERS, AND THERE IS GOOD REASON TO EXPECT THAT EVEN IF BY-ELECTIONS ARE CONTESTED A GOOD PROPORTION OF THE VACANT SEATS WILL FALL TO CONDIDATES SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT. MOREOVER, THE BELEAGUERED "LEGITIMATE" OPPOSITION WILL BE PLACED IN A CLEFT STICK BY THE MOVE. IF IT DENOUNCES THE REMOVAL OF THE EX-NAP LEGISLATORS, IT

WILL BE ACCUSED OF SUPPORTING ANTI-PAK ELEMENTS, A CHARGE THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY FREQUENTLY INDULGED. IF IT ACQUIESCES, IT WILL BE SEEN TO BE ABANDONING ITS ALLIES IN THE PRESENT CONFRONTATION AGAINST THE GOP. CHANCES ARE THAT THERE WILL BE DIVIDED COUNSELS AND CONFLICTING STATEMENTS ON THIS, AS ON THE WISDOM OF CONTENDING BY-ELECTIONS, TO THE OBVIOUS ADVANTAGE OF THE GOVERNMENT SIDE (WHICH IS PROBABLY COUNTING ON JUST SUCH A SPLIT).

5. AS WITH ANY ACTION AFFECTING NAP AND ITS INHERITORS, PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS COULD BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE DISQUALIFICATION MOVE. IF THE GOA OR KABUL RADIO SPEAKS OUT AGAINST THE ACTION THIS COULD BE DULY ADVERTISED HERE AS FURTHER REASON FOR IT TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN. AND SHOULD SOME OF THE OPPOSITIONISTS ALSO DO SO, THE GOP CAN BE COUNTED ON TO CHARGE AS IT HAS FOR THE PAST MONTH THAT THE GOA AND LOCAL OPPONENTS OF THE REGIME ARE SOMEHOW IN COLLUSION.

6. WE WILL HAVE FURTHER ANALYSIS EARLY NEXT WEEK WHICH WILL INCORPORATE FINDINGS OF CONSULATES.
BYROADE

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